



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Office of the State Public Health Director

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

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August 30, 2021

Ms. Janell Howard, City Manager  
City of Brookings  
898 Elk Drive  
Brookings OR 97415  
[jhoward@brookings.or.us](mailto:jhoward@brookings.or.us)

Dear Ms. Howard:

As you are aware, Curry County has transferred its local public health authority to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). As such, the OHA serves as the local public health authority in the County. In addition, as the lead state agency for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, OHA has grant agreements with many community-based organizations around the state to assist with COVID-19 response. One of OHA's grantees is St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Brookings. St. Timothy's is doing the incredibly important work of providing COVID-19 testing and vaccination services.

OHA is concerned that the City is asking St. Timothy's to shut down or move its COVID-19 related work during this time of incredible crises. The COVID-19 Delta variant is surging and the case positivity rate in Curry County was 14.6% over the last week, compared to 7.1% in Multnomah County. ICU bed availability in Region 3, which includes Curry County is limited with hospitalizations in that region rising steeply. Any interruption in COVID-19 services right now has the potential to be very harmful for the citizens of Brookings and Curry County, especially at a time when children are returning to school. I think we can all agree that it is vitally important to keep children in school by doing everything possible to limit outbreaks – testing and vaccination are critical tools in these efforts.

OHA urges the City to support the efforts of St. Timothy's to help combat COVID-19 and delay or defer any proposed action that would result in a cessation of COVID-19 testing and vaccination services, for any length of time. OHA is actively working with its local partners to expand testing and vaccination services in Curry County; however, that work will take some time.

Sincerely,

Dean E. Sidelinger, MD, MEd, FAAP  
State Health Officer

cc: Ron Hedenskog, Mayor, City of Brookings  
Brad Alcorn, Brookings City Councilor  
Ed Schreiber, Brookings City Councilor  
John McKinney, Brookings City Councilor  
Michelle Morosky, Brookings City Councilor  
Rev. Bernie Lindley, Vicar, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
Michael C. Dotten, Chancellor, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon